

I. Fundamental Group and Covering Spaces

A. Fundamental Group

the basic idea is to "probe the topology of a space with loops mapped into the space"

intuitively any loop in S^2 can be "shrunk to a point"
 ie. homotoped to a constant loop



but there are loops in



that get "caught on the topology" and cannot be shrunk.

find "holes" in the space



rigorously, as we said above the fundamental group of a topological space X with a base point $x_0 \in X$ is

$$\pi_1(X, x_0) = [S^1, X]_0 \quad \text{homotopy classes of based maps from } S^1 \text{ to } X$$

we want to see a group structure on this, to this end we need

exercise: let $S^1 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be the unit circle

$$p: [0, 1] \rightarrow S^1 \\ t \mapsto (\cos 2\pi t, \sin 2\pi t)$$

is a quotient map (ie. can think of S^1 as $[0, 1]$ with end pts identified)

moreover, there is a one-to-one correspondence

between $\gamma: ([0, 1], [0, 1]) \rightarrow (X, x_0)$ *call this a based loop in X*

and $\hat{\gamma}: (S^1, \{(1, 0)\}) \rightarrow (X, x_0)$

(given by $\hat{\gamma} \circ p = \gamma$)

so $[S', X]_0$ is the same as $[(0,1], (0,1], (X, x_0)]$ homotopy, rel end pts, classes of loops in X based at x_0

if $\gamma: [0,1] \rightarrow X$ a based loop, then its homotopy class is denoted $[\gamma]$

if γ_1, γ_2 are two loops based at x_0 then define

$\gamma_1 * \gamma_2$ to be the loop

$$\gamma_1 * \gamma_2: [0,1] \rightarrow X: t \mapsto \begin{cases} \gamma_1(2t) & 0 \leq t \leq 1/2 \\ \gamma_2(2t-1) & 1/2 \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

i.e. go around γ_1 then around γ_2

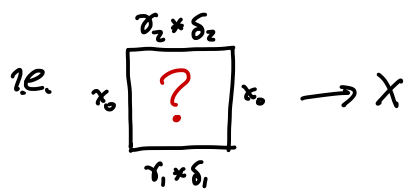
$\gamma_1 * \gamma_2$ is clearly well-defined on loops, but is it well-defined on homotopy classes of loops?

let $\gamma_1 \sim \delta_1$ by homotopy $H: [0,1] \times [0,1] \rightarrow X$

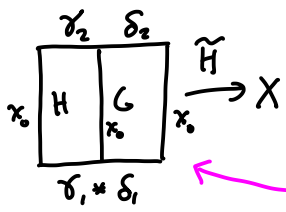
$\gamma_2 \sim \delta_2$ " " $G: [0,1] \times [0,1] \rightarrow X$

we need to find a homotopy $\gamma_1 * \delta_1$ to $\gamma_2 * \delta_2$

that is a map $\tilde{H}: [0,1] \times [0,1] \rightarrow X$ s.t. $\tilde{H}(t,0) = \gamma_1 * \delta_1$
 $\tilde{H}(t,1) = \gamma_2 * \delta_2$
 $\tilde{H}(i,s) = x_0 \quad i=0,1, \forall s$



we can fill in ? with H and G :



can use such pictures to get idea for homotopy

rigorously $\tilde{H}(t,s) = \begin{cases} H(2t,s) & 0 \leq t \leq 1/2 \\ G(2t-1,s) & 1/2 \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$

so $[\gamma_1] * [\gamma_2] = [\gamma_1 * \gamma_2]$ is well-defined!

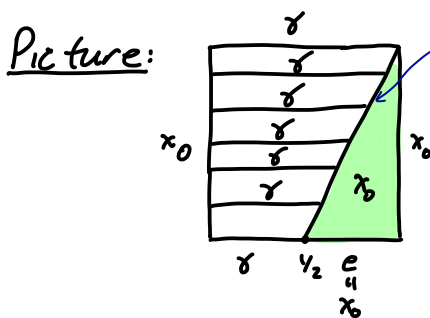
lemma 1:

$(\pi_1(X, x_0), *)$ is a group

Proof:

identity: let $e: [0,1] \rightarrow X: t \mapsto x_0$ *constant loop*

note: $[e] * [\gamma] = [\gamma] = [\gamma] * [e]$

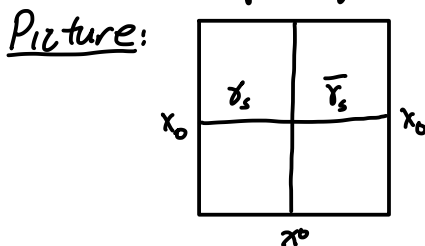


translate:

this line is $s = 2t - 1$
 $t = \frac{s+1}{2}$

$$H(t,s) = \begin{cases} \gamma\left(\frac{2t}{1+s}\right) & 0 \leq t \leq \frac{1+s}{2} \\ x_0 & \frac{1+s}{2} \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

inverses: given $[\gamma]$, then $[\gamma]^{-1} = [\bar{\gamma}]$ where $\bar{\gamma}(t) = \gamma(1-t)$



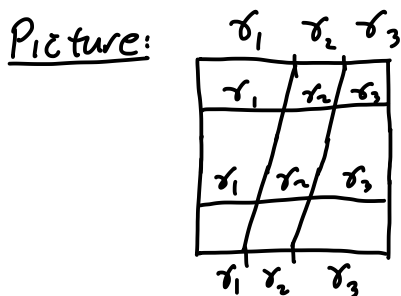
where $\gamma_s(t) = \gamma(st)$ note

$\bar{\gamma}_s(t) = \gamma(s-t)$

rigorously

$$H(t,s) = \begin{cases} \gamma_s(2t) & t \leq 1/2 \\ \bar{\gamma}_s(2t-1) & t \geq 1/2 \end{cases} = \begin{cases} \gamma(2st) & t \leq 1/2 \\ \gamma(s-s(2t-1)) & t \geq 1/2 \end{cases}$$

associativity: need to see $(\gamma_1 * \gamma_2) * \gamma_3 \sim \gamma_1 * (\gamma_2 * \gamma_3)$



exercise: write out H .

If $f: X \rightarrow Y$ a map

$x_0 \in X$ any $y_0 = f(x_0)$

then given any loop $\gamma: [0,1] \rightarrow X$ based at x_0

we get a loop $f \circ \gamma: [0,1] \rightarrow Y$ based at y_0

exercise: If $\gamma \sim \delta$ then $f \circ \gamma \sim f \circ \delta$

so f induces a map

$$f_*: \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_0)$$

$$[\gamma] \longmapsto [f \circ \gamma]$$

lemma 2:

f_* is a homomorphism

Proof: $[\gamma_1], [\gamma_2] \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$

$$\gamma_1 * \gamma_2 (t) = \begin{cases} \gamma_1(2t) & 0 \leq t \leq 1/2 \\ \gamma_2(2t-1) & 1/2 \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

$$(f \circ \gamma_1) * (f \circ \gamma_2) = \begin{cases} f \circ \gamma_1(2t) & 0 \leq t \leq 1/2 \\ f \circ \gamma_2(2t-1) & 1/2 \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{so } f \circ (\gamma_1 * \gamma_2) = (f \circ \gamma_1) * (f \circ \gamma_2)$$

$$\text{i.e. } f_*([\gamma_1] * [\gamma_2]) = f_*([\gamma_1]) * f_*([\gamma_2]) \quad \square$$

exercise:

1) $(f \circ g)_* = f_* \circ g_*$

2) if $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is homotopic to $g: X \rightarrow Y$ relative to $x_0 \in X$
then $f_* = g_*: \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_0)$

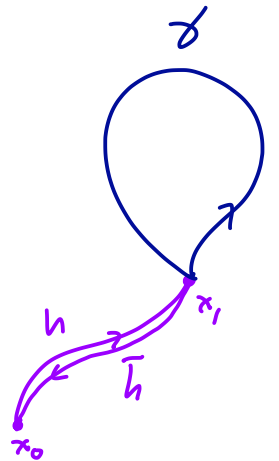
How does π_1 depend on the base point?

let $h: [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ be a path with $h(0) = x_0$ and $h(1) = x_1$

if γ is a loop in X based at x_1 , then note

$$h * \gamma * \bar{h} (t) = \begin{cases} h(3t) & 0 \leq t \leq 1/3 \\ \gamma(3t-1) & 1/3 \leq t \leq 2/3 \\ \bar{h}(3t-1) & 2/3 \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

is a loop based at x_0



lemma 3:

h induces an isomorphism

$$\phi_h: \pi_1(X, x_1) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0)$$

$$[\gamma] \longmapsto [h * \gamma * \bar{h}]$$

Remarks:

- 1) so isomorphism type of $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ only depends on path component of X in which x_0 lies
- 2) The isomorphism depends on h !

Proof: ϕ_h is a well-defined homomorphism (exercise)

Claim $\phi_{\bar{h}}$ is the inverse of ϕ_h

indeed given $[\gamma] \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_h \circ \phi_{\bar{h}}([\gamma]) &= [\underbrace{h * \bar{h}}_{\text{loop based at } x_0} * \gamma * \underbrace{h * \bar{h}}] \\ &= [h * \bar{h}] * [\gamma] * [h * \bar{h}]\end{aligned}$$

but $h * \bar{h} \sim e$ as a loop based at x_0

$$\text{so } \phi_h \circ \phi_{\bar{h}}([\gamma]) = [e] * [\gamma] * [e] = [\gamma]$$

you can similarly check $\phi_{\bar{h}} \circ \phi_h = \text{id}_{\pi_1(X, x_0)}$ 

Thm 4:

If $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a homotopy equivalence, then

$$f_*: \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, f(x_0))$$

is an isomorphism

to prove this we need

Lemma 5:

Suppose $f_0, f_1: X \rightarrow Y$ are homotopic via the homotopy

$$H: X \times [0, 1] \rightarrow Y$$

let $x_0 \in X$ and $h: [0, 1] \rightarrow Y: t \mapsto H(x_0, t)$

Then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & (f_0)_* & \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, f_0(x_0)) \\ \pi_1(X, x_0) & \searrow & \circ \quad \uparrow \phi_h \\ & (f_1)_* & \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, f_1(x_0))\end{array}$$

Proof of Th^m 4:

let g be the homotopy inverse of f so

$$\pi_1(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{f_*} \pi_1(Y, f(x_0)) \xrightarrow{g_*} \pi_1(X, g(f(x_0)))$$

now $g_* \circ f_* \sim \text{id}_X$ so by lemma \exists path h st.

$$g_* \circ f_* = \phi_h \text{ an isomorphism}$$

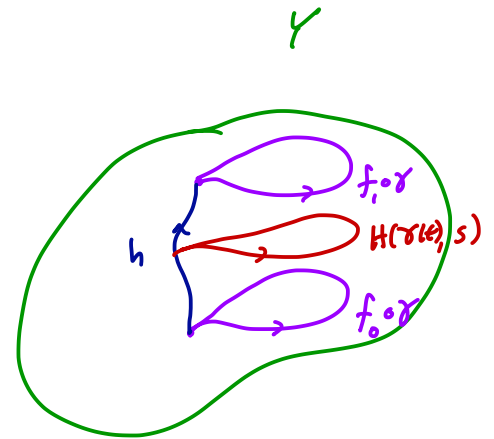
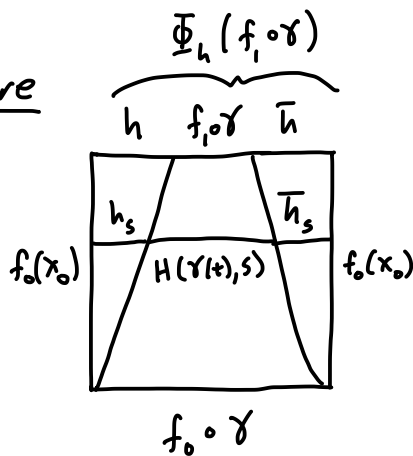
so f_* is injective


similarly $f_* \circ g_*$ is an isomorphism so f_* is surjective

$\therefore f_*$ an isomorphism 

Proof of lemma 5:

Picture



exercise: write out explicit homotopy 

Recap: We have a "functor"

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{pointed topological} \\ \text{spaces,} \\ \text{pointed maps} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{groups,} \\ \text{homomorphisms} \end{array} \right\}$$

homotopic spaces map to isomorphic groups

homotopic functions map to the "same" homomorphism


B. Simple Computations

Lemma 6:

If X is contractible
then $\pi_1(X, x_0) = \{1\} \quad \forall x_0 \in X$

Proof: If X is a one point space, then $\exists!$ loop $\gamma: [0,1] \rightarrow X$
so $\pi_1(X, x_0) = \{1\}$ (constant loop)

X contractible $\Rightarrow X \simeq$ one point space

so done by Th^m 4 

Remark: A space X is called simply connected

if 1) X is path connected, and

2) $\pi_1(X, x_0) = \{1\}$

so contractible spaces are simply connected

simply connected means "path connected in a particular simple way"

Lemma 7:

X is simply connected \iff every two points in X
are connected by a unique homotopy class of
paths in X

Proof: (\Leftarrow) path connected by existence of path

any loop based at x_0 homotopic to constant

loop by uniqueness of homotopy class of path

(\Rightarrow) path connected gives existence of path a to b

given 2 paths $\gamma, \delta: [0,1] \rightarrow X$ from a to b

simple connectivity implies $a * b \sim e_a$

\swarrow constant a path

now $\gamma \sim \gamma * (\bar{\delta} * \delta) \sim (\gamma * \bar{\delta}) * \delta \sim e_a * \delta \sim \delta$

\uparrow from proof of lemma 1 even though δ a path
 $\bar{\delta} * \delta \sim e_b$

\uparrow from proof of lemma 1
 (all homotopies rell end pts of path)



Th^m 8:

$$\pi_1(S^n) = \{1\} \quad \forall n \geq 2$$

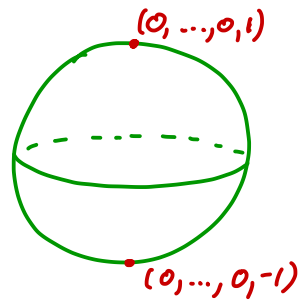
need lemma

lemma 9:

let $X = A \cup B$
 $A, B,$ and $A \cap B$ open and path connected
 $x_0 \in A \cap B$
 Then any loop $\gamma: [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ based at x_0
 can be written as $\gamma \sim \gamma_1 * \dots * \gamma_n$
 where each γ_i is a loop in A or B based at x_0

Proof of Th^m 8:

let $A = S^n - \{(0, \dots, 0, 1)\} \cong \mathbb{R}^n$
 $B = S^n - \{(0, \dots, 0, -1)\} \cong \mathbb{R}^n$
 $A \cap B = S^n - \{(0, \dots, -1), (0, \dots, 1)\} \cong S^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R}$




all are path connected
 take $x_0 \in A \cap B$

any $[\gamma] \in \pi_1(S^n, x_0)$ can be written as
 $[\gamma] = [\gamma_1][\gamma_2] \dots [\gamma_n]$ where $[\gamma_i] \in \pi_1(A, x_0)$
 or $\pi_1(B, x_0)$

by lemma 9

but $\pi_1(A, x_0) = \{1\} = \pi_1(B, x_0)$ so $[\gamma] = [c_x]$

and hence $\pi_1(S^n, x_0) = \{1\}$ 

Proof of lemma 9:

given $\gamma: [0,1] \rightarrow X$ a loop based at x_0

Claim: there exist $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n = 1$ such that

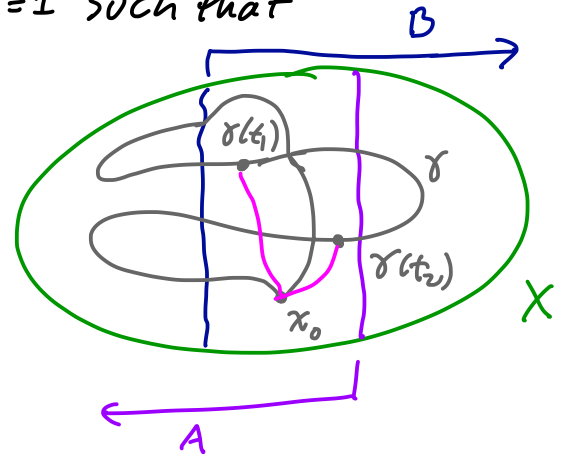
$$\text{im } \gamma|_{[t_{i-1}, t_i]} \subset A \text{ or } B$$

$$\text{and } \gamma(t_i) \in A \cap B$$

given this let $\delta_i: [0,1] \rightarrow A \cap B$

connect x_0 to $\gamma(t_i)$

$$\text{and } \delta_i = \gamma|_{[t_{i-1}, t_i]}$$



note: $\gamma \sim \delta_1 * \delta_2 * \dots * \delta_n \sim (\delta_1 * \delta_1^{-1}) * (\delta_1 * \delta_2 * \delta_2^{-1}) * \delta_2 \dots (\delta_{n-1} * \delta_n)$
loop in loop in ... loop in
A or B A or B A or B

Pf of Claim:

need Topology Fact (Lebesgue number lemma)

Hatcher's proof implicitly uses the Axiom of choice (when choosing intervals containing each point). The proof here is more "direct"

for a proof see any topology or analysis book

X a compact metric space
 $\{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in A}$ an open cover
 \exists a number $\delta > 0$ (Lebesgue #)
 st. \forall sets S with $\text{diam}(S) < \delta$
 $\exists \alpha$ st. $S \subset U_\alpha$

now $U_1 = \gamma^{-1}(A)$, $U_2 = \gamma^{-1}(B)$ is an open cover of $[0,1]$ so $\exists \delta > 0$ st. if $|b-a| < \delta$ then $[a,b] \subset U_i$ $i=0$ or 1

let n be st. $\frac{1}{n} < \delta$

now $\gamma|_{[\frac{i}{n}, \frac{i+1}{n}]} \subset A$ or B

so start with $t_i = \frac{i}{n}$ $i = 0, \dots, n$

now if $\gamma|_{[t_{i-1}, t_i]}, \gamma|_{[t_i, t_{i+1}]}$ both in A or B
then throw out t_i

continuing gives desired partition \square

Th^m 10:

$$\pi_1(X \times Y, (x_0, y_0)) \cong \pi_1(X, x_0) \times \pi_1(Y, y_0)$$

Proof: $\Phi: \pi_1(X, x_0) \times \pi_1(Y, y_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X \times Y, (x_0, y_0))$
 $([\gamma], [\delta]) \mapsto [\gamma \times \delta]$ where $(\gamma \times \delta)(t) = (\gamma(t), \delta(t))$

is an isomorphism

exercise: 1) show Φ is well-defined homomorphism
2) show Φ is bijection (use projection) \square

C. Fundamental Group of S^1

Th^m 11:

$$\pi_1(S^1, (1, 0)) \cong \mathbb{Z}$$

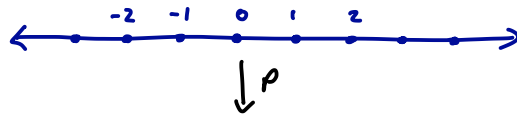
the isomorphism sends $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ to

$$\gamma_n: [0, 1] \rightarrow S^1: t \mapsto (\cos 2n\pi t, \sin 2n\pi t)$$

Remark: Proof is an example of very important technique that we will see again!

The proof involves studying the map

$$\rho: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S^1: t \mapsto (\cos 2\pi t, \sin 2\pi t)$$

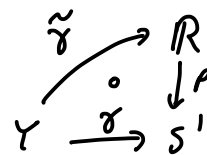


note: $\rho^{-1}((1,0)) = \mathbb{Z}$

ρ is a special case of a covering map (we will study these quite a bit later)

If $\gamma: [0,1] \rightarrow S^1$ is a path based at $(1,0)$ then a lift of γ based at $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ is a map $\tilde{\gamma}: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ s.t.

- 1) $\tilde{\gamma}(0) = n$
- 2) $\rho \circ \tilde{\gamma}(x) = \gamma(x) \quad \forall x$



lemma 12:

a) for each $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, each loop $\gamma: [0,1] \rightarrow S^1$ based at $(1,0)$ lifts to a unique path $\tilde{\gamma}_n$ based at n .

b) if $\gamma \sim \gamma'$ are loops in S^1 based at $(1,0)$ and $\tilde{\gamma}_n$ and $\tilde{\gamma}'_n$ are their lifts based at n , then $\tilde{\gamma}_n \sim \tilde{\gamma}'_n \text{ rel } \{0,1\}$

Proof of Th^m 11 given lemma 12:

Given $\gamma \in [\gamma] \in \pi_1(S^1, (1,0))$

lemma 12 a) says $\exists! \tilde{\gamma}_0: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

since $\tilde{\gamma}_0(1) \in \rho^{-1}((1,0)) = \mathbb{Z}$ we can define

$$\Phi: \pi_1(S^1, (1,0)) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

$$[\gamma] \mapsto \tilde{\gamma}_0(1)$$

lemma 12 b) say Φ is well-defined

Φ surjective: let $\tilde{\gamma}^n(t) = nt$ for $t \in [0,1]$

$$\text{and } \gamma^n(t) = \rho \circ \tilde{\gamma}^n$$

clearly $\tilde{\delta}^n$ is a lift based at 0 of the loop δ^n

$$\text{and } \Phi([\delta_n]) = n$$

Φ is injective:

suppose γ, γ' are two loops in S^1 st. $\tilde{\gamma}_0(1) = \tilde{\gamma}'_0(1)$

$$\text{set } \tilde{H}(s,t) = (1-t)\tilde{\gamma}_0(s) + t\tilde{\gamma}'_0(s)$$

$$\text{and } H(s,t) = p \circ \tilde{H}(s,t)$$

$$\text{note: } H(s,0) = \gamma(s)$$

$$H(s,1) = \gamma'(s)$$

$$H(0,t) = (1,0) = H(1,t) \quad \forall t$$

i.e. H is a homotopy of based loops

$$\text{i.e. } \gamma \sim \gamma'$$

Φ a homomorphism:

given $[\gamma], [\gamma'] \in \pi_1(S^1, (1,0))$

let $\tilde{\gamma}_0, \tilde{\gamma}'_0$ be the lifts of γ, γ' (based at 0)

$$\Phi([\gamma]) = \tilde{\gamma}_0(1) = n \quad \Phi([\gamma']) = \tilde{\gamma}'_0(1) = m$$

note: 1) $\tilde{\gamma}'_n(t) = n + \tilde{\gamma}'_0(t)$ since r.t. hand side is a lift and lift is unique

2) $\tilde{\gamma}_0 * \tilde{\gamma}'_n$ is a lift of $\gamma * \gamma'$ based at 0

$$\begin{aligned} \text{so } \Phi([\gamma][\gamma']) &= \tilde{\gamma}_0 * \tilde{\gamma}'_n(1) = \tilde{\gamma}_0 * \tilde{\gamma}'_n(1) = n+m \\ &= \Phi([\gamma]) + \Phi([\gamma']) \end{aligned}$$

Proof of lemma 12:

exercise: think about uniqueness (we will do more about this for general covering space)

part a): let $A = S^1 - \{(1,0)\}$

$$p^{-1}(A) = \bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \underbrace{(1, i+1)}_{A_i}$$

note: $p|_{A_i}: A_i \rightarrow A$ a homeomorphism!

similarly if $B = S^1 - \{(-1,0)\}$

$$\text{then } \rho^{-1}(B) = \bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \underbrace{(1 - \frac{1}{2}, 1 + \frac{1}{2})}_{B_i}$$

and $\rho|_{B_i}: B_i \rightarrow B$ a homeomorphism

Obvious but important observation:

If $f: X \rightarrow S^1$ has image in A

then after choosing $n \in \mathbb{Z} \exists$ a unique map

$$\tilde{f}: X \rightarrow A_n \subset \mathbb{R}$$

such that $\rho \circ \tilde{f} = f$

i.e. just set $\tilde{f} = (\rho|_{A_n})^{-1} \circ f$

similarly for $f(X) \subset B$.

now given a loop $\gamma: [0,1] \rightarrow S^1$ based at $(1,0)$

note: $\{\gamma^{-1}(A), \gamma^{-1}(B)\}$ an open cover of compact $[0,1]$

so \exists Lebesgue number $\delta > 0$ for cover

Choose n st. $\frac{1}{n} < \delta$

note: if $t_i = \frac{i}{n}$ then $\gamma([t_i, t_{i+1}]) \subset A$ or B

if $\gamma([t_{i-1}, t_i])$ and $\gamma([t_i, t_{i+1}])$ lie in same A or B then
discard t_i (do this inductively on i)

so we get a partition $t_0 = 0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k = 1$ of $[0,1]$

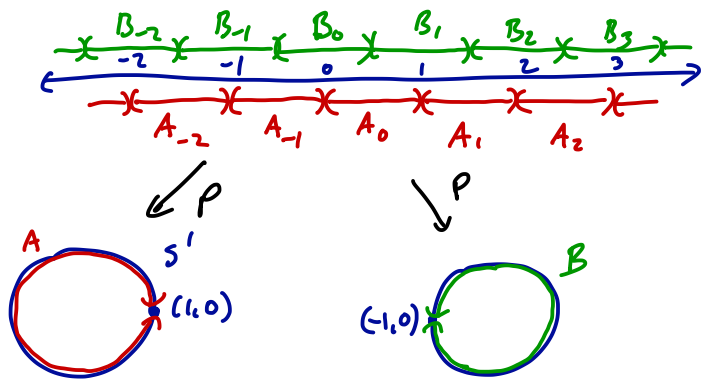
st. $\gamma([t_i, t_{i+1}]) \subset \begin{cases} B & \text{for } i \text{ even} \\ A & \text{for } i \text{ odd} \end{cases}$ (since $\mathbb{Z} \cap A = \emptyset$)

now set $\tilde{\gamma}_n = (\rho|_{B_n})^{-1} \circ \gamma$ on $[t_0, t_1]$

note: $\tilde{\gamma}_n(t_i) \in A_k$ some k

so set $\tilde{\gamma}_n = (\rho|_{A_k})^{-1} \circ \tilde{\gamma}_n$ on $[t_i, t_{i+1}]$

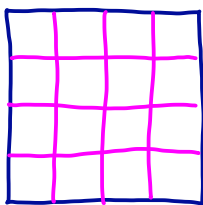
inductively continue to get $\tilde{\gamma}_n$ defined on $[0,1]$



since all lifts agree at endpoints $\tilde{\gamma}_n$ is continuous and clearly the desired lift! —

part b):

just like proof path lifting: Given homotopy $H: [0,1] \times [0,1] \rightarrow S^1$
 get Lebesgue number $\delta > 0$ for $\{H^{-1}(A), H^{-1}(B)\}$
 pick n st. $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{n} < \delta$ then consider



$\frac{1}{n} \times \frac{1}{n}$ squares

each square can be lifted

exercise: write out details

Many corollaries of this computation, eg

Cor 13: There is no retraction $D^2 \rightarrow \partial D^2$

Proof: If there were a retraction $r: D^2 \rightarrow S^1 = \partial D^2$

then consider the inclusion map $i: S^1 \rightarrow D^2$ (as ∂D^2)

note $r \circ i: S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ is the identity map!

so $r_* \circ i_* = (r \circ i)_* = (\text{id}_{S^1})_* = \text{id}_{\pi_1(S^1, (1,0))} : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow i_*$ injective

but $\pi_1(D^2, (1,0)) = \{1\}$, so $i_* =$ constant map \nexists injectivity

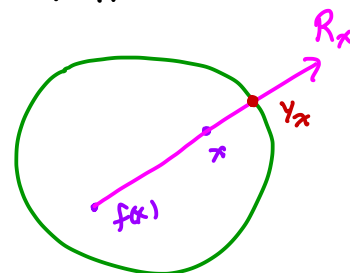
Cor 14: any map $f: D^2 \rightarrow D^2$ has a fixed point

Proof: If $f: D^2 \rightarrow D^2$ had no fixed points, then for each $x \in D$

let $R_x =$ ray starting at $f(x)$ going through x

note: $R_x \cap \partial D^2$ in exactly 1 point y_x

set $g(x) = y_x$



exercise: $g(x)$ continuous (eqⁿ for R_x continuous in x
 \therefore eqⁿ for $R_x \cap S'$ continuous in x)

clearly g a retraction! \square Cor 13 

Many other applications!

- 1) Fundamental Th^m of Algebra
- 2) Borsuk-Ulam Th^m (abt maps $S^2 \rightarrow S^1$ and $S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$)
- 3) Ham sandwich th^m
- \vdots

see Hatcher's Book and supplement class webpage